

## **Storm Water Permit Q&As for Municipal/State Highway Garages Wastewater Treatment Plants in New England**

### **1. Do I need a storm water permit for my municipal/state highway garage or wastewater treatment facility?**

Probably. You need a storm water permit if your

- highway garage maintains vehicles & equipment (mechanical repairs, lubrication, fueling, painting, rehabilitation), & cleans equipment
- treatment plant has a capacity of 1 mgd or greater

**AND**

- storm water runs off your property (via a ditch, swale, etc.) to a wetland, stream, brook, river, other waterway or municipal drainage system.

There is one exception. If your industrial materials and activities do not contaminate storm water runoff at your facility, you can apply for the No Exposure exclusion (see questions 5 & 6).

### **2. Where can I get a stormwater permit?**

If you're in Maine, Massachusetts or New Hampshire, you can get the permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The permit, called EPA's Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Industrial Activities, is on EPA's web site at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/msgp.cfm>  
scroll down to "Final MSGP-2000 (65 FR 6476, October 30, 2000)"

The permit contains general requirements for all industries and special requirements for specific industry groups and activities, such as vehicle maintenance and wastewater treatment.

You are covered under the general requirements and

- Sector P for vehicle maintenance (Land Transportation and Warehousing). See Section 6.P which begins on page 64840 of the permit (Federal Register)
- Sector T for wastewater treatment (Treatment Works). See Section 6.T which begins on page 64845 of the permit (Federal Register).

If you attended one of EPA New England's storm water workshops this spring or summer, the permit was included in the handouts.

If you're in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont, you'll need to apply and comply with your state's storm water requirements, which are similar to EPA's. (Connecticut's storm water permit

program for municipal vehicle maintenance facilities has been in effect since 1995. So if you're in Connecticut your probably already covered!)

### **3. What does the storm water permit require?**

By March 10, 2003 you must

- apply for a permit
- have developed and implemented a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

The SWPPP must include a map showing a facility's drainage system, locations of material and waste storage areas, and receiving waters or sewers. The plan must also describe methods used to minimize exposing materials to storm water.

### **4. How do I apply for a permit?**

- Obtain a copy of the permit. (See the web site address above.)
- Submit a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) by March 10, 2002

EPA's Notice of Intent is attached to the storm water permit. In Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont, contact your state permitting authority. A list of contacts is below.

**OR**

Submit a "No Exposure" Certification by March 10, 2003.

### **5. What is a "No Exposure"?**

"No exposure" means all industrial materials and activities are protected by a storm resistant shelter to prevent exposure to rain, snow, snow melt and/or runoff.

A storm resistant shelter is **NOT** required for the following activities or materials:

- drums, barrels, tanks and similar containers that are sealed and are in good condition (not leaking or deteriorating)
- above ground storage tanks (provided pipes, pumps or other equipment does not leak and contaminate storm water)
- lidded dumpsters (keep lids closed & drain holes plugged so nothing drains out!)
- adequately maintained vehicles

### **6. How do I apply for "No Exposure"?**

Make sure that your materials and activities are not exposed to rain, snow, snow melt and/or runoff.

Submit a No Exposure Certificate to EPA or your state permitting office by March 10, 2003. EPA's No Exposure Certificate is attached to the storm water permit. In Rhode Island and

Vermont contact your state permitting authority. A list of contacts is below. Connecticut does not offer “No Exposure”.

**7. Storm water run off from my facility is pretty clean. Do I need a storm water permit?**

Probably not. But you must meet the No Exposure criteria and apply for No Exposure.

**8. Storm water does not run off from my facility. Do I need a storm water permit?**  
No – you’re out of the program and don’t need a storm water permit!

**9. My community is small. Am I still in the program?**

Yes. The industrial storm water program is governed by the industrial activity, not the size of a facility.

**Contacts:**

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